

City of Boston's ARRA Investment At Six Months: Executive Summary



To keep Boston's economy moving and its neighborhoods strong, Mayor Thomas M. Menino has been aggressively pursuing American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) resources. Since the bill's passage exactly six months ago, the City has been able to:

- Launch 41 projects and directly invest \$172.6 million in ARRA funds. The ARRA funds also would help unlock an additional \$162.2 million, for a total economic investment of over \$334.8 million
- Initiate a major modernization effort at the Boston Housing Authority and jumpstart a stalled development, creating over 700 jobs combined
- Advance a repaying initiative that will cover 75 thoroughfares, reconstruct and improve Dorchester Avenue, a major north-south urban arterial, improve over 400 pedestrian ramps and establish 4 miles of dedicated bike lanes, **creating 270 jobs**
- Save the jobs of 100 police officers through COPS and Byrne grant funding
- Save 215 positions at Boston's schools, of which 180 are teachers through Title I and IDEA funding
- Employed over 850 youth with ARRA WIA summer jobs funding



Through these 41 planned and already underway projects, the City of Boston estimates that it will have created or saved 1,665 jobs, provided summer youth employment to 850 students and job training for 232 disadvantaged and dislocated adults

In addition, the City is currently pursuing an additional \$250 million in ARRA funding to further increase opportunity for Boston residents and businesses.

Strengthening Boston's Economy

The City of Boston has used ARRA funding to strengthen Boston's economy by investing in infrastructure, job training and initiatives that will spark private sector growth.

Note: Direct investment is funds received through ARRA and spent on a particular project. Leveraged investments is funds that otherwise would not be invested but for the initial ARRA investment. Leveraging can come in the form of state tax credits, state investment or other incentives or private investment.

Number of Projects: 11

Jobs Created: 26+ full-time brownfield employment jobs created

381+ construction and remediation jobs created

232+ job training positions created

Investment:

Direct Investment: \$74.905 million
Leveraged Investment: \$94.8 million
Total Investment: \$169.705 million

Funded Projects

- Transportation Infrastructure Investments (\$42.5 million)
 The City is investing \$42.5 million in transportation enhancements including citywide street surfacing campaign that will reconstruct approximately 400 pedestrian ramps and install 4 miles of bike lanes; the reconstruction of the Dorchester Avenue corridor from Andrew Square to Field's Corner; an investment in improved technology for intelligent transportation systems that will build-out new traffic cameras and increase in size and scope the existing fiber optic network.
- Recovery Zone Facility Bonds (\$27 million)
 The City, through the Boston Redevelopment Authority, has received funding to issue Recovery Zone bonds that can spark both private sector and institutional growth.
- O Job Training For Disadvantaged and Dislocated Adults (\$1.86 million)

 Through a combination of newly-funded programs and training vouchers for existing programs, the City will provide funding to help unemployed adults retrain to make them better prepared and more competitive for new jobs.
- Brownfield Remediation Projects (\$720,000)
 Three brownfield sites (currently unused previous industrial space) in Codman Square and Jackson Square will be remediated to open up new land for development, leveraging \$19.8 million in further investment.
- o Community Development Block Grant of \$2.825 million

Funds to assist four stalled construction projects, provide short-term loans to new or existing businesses impacted by the recession, and loans for working capital or investment

Improving Housing and Fighting Homelessness

The City of Boston has prioritized for ARRA funds to help expand homelessness prevention services and to modernize and increase affordable housing.

Number of Projects: 10

Jobs Created: 705+ construction jobs

Investment:

Direct Investment: \$40.6 million
Leveraged Investment: \$44.4 million
Total Investment: \$85 million

Funded Projects

- Public Housing Modernization (\$30.1 million)
 Through ARRA funds, the City is modernizing and improving public housing developments across the City, most notably Washington Beech and will unlock an additional \$35.5 million in leveraged funds.
- O Homelessness Prevention and Rapid Re-Housing Program (\$8.2 million) The HPRP funds will enable the city to significantly expand homelessness prevention services. The City issued a Request for Proposals on July 27. Proposals from agencies seeking to administer financial assistance and provide housing relocation and stabilization services to those in need were due August 17th. The City will make its HPRP funding awards and have grant agreements in place by September 30.
- Community Development Block Grant Recovery (\$2.3 million) The CDBG-R funds will be used to jumpstart stalled housing and economic development projects that will further leverage \$8.9 million in unlocked funds. The City has already awarded \$600,000 to two stalled Low Income Housing Tax Credit Projects (Blessed Sacrament and Centre/Lamartine) that will provide 66 units of affordable housing and create over 300 construction jobs. The projects are expected to start construction in September.

Expanding Youth Opportunities

ARRA has helped the City continue providing a strong pipeline of opportunities for Boston's youth.

Number of Projects: 8

Jobs Created: 215 full-time teaching jobs saved

850 youth summer jobs created (project completed)

Investment:

Direct Investment: \$34.79 million

Leveraged Investment: n/a

Total Investment: \$34.79 million

Funded Projects

Teachers & Classroom Supplies (\$15.6 million)
 Through Title I and Title IDEA, the City has been able to save the jobs of 180 teachers and fund additional books and other classroom materials.

Summer & Year Round Jobs (\$2.54 million)
 The City has been able to provide 850 jobs for youth as part of its summer job campaign that reached nearly 10,000 youth this year. \$1.3 million was spent this past summer with the balance to be used this winter and next summer.

Greening Our City

While many of the housing investments have environmental components, the City has received additional funds specifically to green the city.

Number of Projects: 8

Jobs Created: 237 green jobs

Investment:

Direct Investment: \$6.15 million
Leveraged Investment: \$23.045 million
Total Investment: \$29.195 million

Funded Projects

• Renew Boston (\$6.5 million)

Through the Energy Efficiency Block Grant, the City has been able to launch its largest effort ever to help businesses and homeowners make their property more energy efficient. This funding will leverage an additional \$23 million in unlocked funds.

Increasing Public Safety and Public Health

ARRA has helped the City preserve its uniformed police force and improve the welfare of seniors.

Number of Projects: 3

Jobs Created: 101 full-time police officer jobs saved

Investment:

Direct Investment: \$16.13 million

Leveraged Investment: n/a

Total Investment: \$16.13 million

Funded Projects

- Police Officers (\$15.7 million)
 Through the Bryne Grant and the competitive COPS grant, the City has been able to save the jobs of over 100 police officers.
- Senior Health & Nutrition (\$430,000)
 The City has been able to invest more in providing nutritional meals for seniors at both congregate sites and in their homes, providing roughly 11.5% of last year's volume in combined congregate site and home-delivered meal service.